

## **Recycling and Refuse Management Committee**

### **Minutes from 11/13/08 meeting**

**Present:** Meg Vickery, Chair; Susan Waite, DPW Liaison; Marianne Lorenzelli; Lucy McMurrer; Adrie Lester; Sterling Bush, Transfer Station representative; John Root and David Lovler, potential RRMC members; Ricci Mastroianni, School Composting Sub-committee.

July minutes were approved without changes.

#### **Membership**

Meg contacted one woman from the Sustainable Energy Fair who expressed an interest in joining the RRMC but she can't meet in the afternoons. Marianne will contact others. John and David are both interested in joining the RRMC. Other suggestions were Greg Keochakian and three Environmental Sciences teachers at ARHS (Mr. Fownes, Nick Shaw, and the AP Enviro. Sci. teacher). Susan will check on them. Sterling has meeting with Larry Shaffer tomorrow re: joining.

#### **Styrofoam Ban**

Draft of new Styrofoam by-law by Peter Vickery distributed. Lucy needs to check on other MA communities who have instituted a similar ban. We also need to talk to Larry Shaffer and Guilford about the process and what comes next. Who is the RRMC's Select Board liaison? That person, too, could help us. Could someone contact Yuri Asano, who worked on the Fair Trade by-law and ask him how he did it?

#### **School Composting**

Ricci Mastroianni, a teacher at Crocker Farm Elem. School, gave us an update on composting there. Things are going wonderfully and kids are very enthusiastic about it. She's hoping to get Mary Carey, an Amherst Bulletin reporter, to cover this but apparently there's a conflict. Ricci would also like to publicize how the lunch ladies have purchased *with their own funds* large bowls to serve food directly from, as opposed to individual single-use bowls. Composting is going on both in kindergarten classrooms and the school cafeteria. It's challenging because there needs to be school-wide support (currently the onus falls primarily on Ricci). Composting could also benefit the CFS grounds crew by putting raked leaves into the compost bins as opposed to trucking them to the Transfer Station (decreases gas money and lessens carbon footprint). Funding has been applied for to build a compost container. Arlene Miller might be a resource in drafting a response letter to Ron Bohonowitz (Town Building Supervisor) re: bear sightings and composting. Lucy will try to speak with CFS principal Mike Morris about decreasing Styrofoam use. Meg suggested someone talk to the food service people about getting milk in glass containers instead of waxed cartons? David Lovler also expressed an interest in coming to speak to CFS about composting.

#### **Landfill Reuse Report**

Clare and Meg are the two RRMC members on the Landfill Reuse Subcommittee and Meg reported that the uses suggested so far are (1) a solar farm, (2) LSSE playing fields (parking for this could be an issue), and (3) Wagner Wood wants a sunflower field and wood storage area. Where the town would put its winter snow could be a problem. The need to off-set the \$100K annual cost for soil testing must also be taken into consideration.

### **New Business**

#### **Grant Applications**

Susan applied for a \$2300 grant from the MRF for a trailer to collect downtown recyclables. Sterling suggested measurements be taken, before the size of the trailer is confirmed, just to make sure the recyclable containers will fit. Susan also said MRF grants will probably be decreasing in the future and we need to get this in now.

Susan also let the RRMC know that nation-wide recycling markets are plummeting and the MRF profit-sharing (which goes back to participating towns) will probably be decreasing as well. Single-stream recycling (putting all recyclables in the same container) may supercede dual stream recycling (one week paper, one week plastics) and if that happens, Amherst will receive less money from MRF for recycling.

The day of RRMC meetings has now been changed to the *first* Thursday of every month (from the second Thursday).

Next committee meeting scheduled for *the first Thursday of December*, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy McMurrer